

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

\* \* \*

William Alexander Lee,

Plaintiff,

v.

Yellow Checker Star Transportation Taxi;  
YCS Trans; HR Manager Zell; Taxi  
Management, LLC,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:23-cv-00919-APG-DJA

**Order**

Before the Court is Plaintiff's second motion for appointment of counsel. (ECF No. 9). Under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1), "[t]he court may request an attorney to represent any person unable to afford counsel." However, the court will appoint counsel for indigent civil litigants only in "exceptional circumstances." *Palmer v. Valdez*, 560 F.3d 965, 970 (9th Cir. 2009). "When determining whether 'exceptional circumstances' exist, a court must consider 'the likelihood of success on the merits as well as the ability of the petitioner to articulate his claims *pro se* in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved.'" *Id.* "Neither of these considerations is dispositive and instead must be viewed together." *Id.*

The Court already denied Plaintiff's first motion for appointment of counsel. (ECF No. 8). In that order the Court explained:

The Court denies Plaintiff's motion to appoint counsel because it does not find extraordinary circumstances here. Regarding the merits of Plaintiff's claims, Plaintiff's complaint has not yet passed screening, which is a relatively low threshold, so it is unclear whether his claims have merit. Regarding Plaintiff's ability to articulate his claims *pro se*, Plaintiff has only tried once. While the Court dismissed Plaintiff's complaint, it provided detailed reasons why and explained what elements of which claims were missing

1 from this complaint. And Plaintiff has not yet filed an amended  
2 complaint.

3 Plaintiff asserts that he is unable to investigate or present his case  
4 because of mental and physical health issues. However, Plaintiff  
5 was able to write and file his motion for appointment of counsel.  
6 Without more explanation about how his health issues are impeding  
7 his ability to file a complaint—which complaint only requires a  
8 short and plain statement of the claim under Federal Rule of Civil  
9 Procedure 8—the Court does not find that Plaintiff’s health issues  
10 alone warrant appointing counsel. The Court thus denies Plaintiff’s  
11 motion for appointment of counsel without prejudice, meaning that  
12 Plaintiff may refile it if he can demonstrate exceptional  
13 circumstances.

14 However, the Court does find Plaintiff’s health issues warrant  
15 extending the time for him to file an amended complaint. In  
16 screening Plaintiff’s complaint, the Court gave him until November  
17 27, 2023 to file an amended complaint. (ECF No. 5 at 7-8). It added  
18 that “[f]ailure to comply with this order will result in the  
19 recommended dismissal of this case.” (*Id.*). Plaintiff has indicated  
20 in his motion to appoint counsel that he was hospitalized on  
21 November 12, 2023. (ECF No. 7). The Court finds this sufficient  
22 good cause to warrant extending the time for Plaintiff to file his  
23 amended complaint under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 6(b) and  
24 Local Rule IA 6-1.

25 (ECF No. 8).

26 In that order, the Court provided Plaintiff until February 16, 2024 to file an amended  
27 complaint. (ECF No. 8). Instead of filing an amended complaint, Plaintiff filed the instant  
28 motion for appointment of counsel. (ECF No. 9). Plaintiff’s instant motion explains that his  
disabilities limit his major life activities and indicates that he relies on a volunteer to help him  
with his case due to his loss of vision and difficulty speaking. (ECF No. 9 at 6). However,  
Plaintiff still has yet to file an amended complaint in this action and has demonstrated his ability  
to file the motion for appointment of counsel with the help of a volunteer. The Court thus denies  
Plaintiff’s second motion for appointment of counsel for the same reasons it denied his first  
motion for appointment of counsel. The Court will grant Plaintiff another extension to file an  
amended complaint.

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1           **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that Plaintiff's motion for appointment of counsel  
2 (ECF No. 9) is **denied without prejudice.**

3           **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Plaintiff must file his amended complaint on or  
4 before **March 27, 2024. Failure to comply with this order will result in the recommended**  
5 **dismissal of this case.**

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7           DATED: February 26, 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Albregts', is written over a horizontal line.

DANIEL J. ALBREGTS  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE